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Approved For Release 2003/06/12 : CIA-RDP80-01065A000500120016-3

INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR,
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION AND
CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1950, IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Cechsner
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard

Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and, there being no objections, were approved.

Mr. Barrett raised the question of psychological warfare activities in the field -- both Tokyo and Korea. He stated that we are generally in the dark regarding the nature of field operations and that very little detailed information was provided through official communications channels. The State Department had received a cable from James Stewart, who has been placed in charge of field operations under G-2, which he read indicating that they are encountering organizational and operational problems. Mr. Barrett said that he understood the reluctance to tell a theater commander how to set up his theater organization, but felt that we ought to be fully informed in order to be as helpful as possible in meeting field requirements. In this connection, the suggestion was made that a qualified person, either from the Department of Defense or from the State Department might be sent out from Washington to discuss the situation on the spot. Admiral Stevens suggested that a cable be prepared inquiring whether such a visit would be helpful.

Mr. Barrett noted that in a recent telecon, Tokyo had requested clarification of the responsibility for covering the cost of radio broadcasts originating in Japan. The current rate of expenditure is approximately \$350 a day which includes rebroadcasting VOA programs and local programs to Korea. Admiral Stevens thought that there should be funds in Defense to cover the theater expenses for this operation.

Mr. Barrett then turned to the question of organization in Washington. He read the State Department comment on NSC 74 and provided copies for the consultants. He stated that while there might be delay in the final approval of NSC 74, we could proceed to strengthen the existing organization under NSC 59 at once, and build up the necessary staff functions. After general discussion of the immediate and future needs for a strengthened interdepartmental organization and a review of personnel requirements and qualifications, it was agreed that the State Department would prepare a paper recommending specific steps which could be taken now.

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Mr. Barrett said that he would like to see a public statement on the steps which are being taken to strengthen and coordinate the psychological warfare program. He said that such an announcement could be made by the Secretary of State and that the statement would counteract the impression that nothing was being done in this field. General Magruder felt that it would be helpful to show that an organization was in existence to meet special situations. Mr. Barrett undertook to prepare a draft statement on these lines.

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